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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/697,789	10/26/2000	Graham Mensa-Wilmot	05516/084001	5600

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EXAMINER	
HAWKINS GAY, JENNIFER M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

3672

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/697,789	MENSA-WILMOT ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jennifer H Gay	3672

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-4 and 12-14 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 5-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 October 2000 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-4 and 12-14, drawn to a method of forming a drill bit body, classified in class 76, subclass 108.2.
 - II. Claims 5-11, drawn to a drill bit body, classified in class 175, subclass 428.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I and II are related as process of making and product made. The inventions are distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) that the process as claimed can be used to make other and materially different product or (2) that the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process (MPEP § 806.05(f)). In the instant case drill bits are made through numerous different methods and the claimed process could be used to make various other metal objects.

2. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

3. This application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Inventions I and II.

Applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, none of the claims are generic.

Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election.

Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the

limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. MPEP § 809.02(a).

Should applicant traverse on the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit on the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention.

4. During a telephone conversation with Richard Fagin on 22 January 2002 a provisional election was made without traverse to prosecute the invention of a drill bit body, claims 5-11. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 1-4 and 12-14 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

5. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Drawings

6. The drawings are objected to because in Figure 4, both occurrences of "12" should be changed to --112--. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

7. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description: R as found in Figure 1. A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the

reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

8. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In lines 13 and 14 of page 7, the sentence that begins "Each of the blades 110..." is unclear. It appears to be missing several words. The sentence should be reviewed and the necessary changes made.

Appropriate correction is required.

9. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The title, though adequate now, should be changed to remove the phrase "Method of Making" because this is no longer part of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

11. Claims 5, 8, and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Radtke (US 4,499,795).

Radtke discloses a method of drill bit manufacture and a the drill bit formed from that method. The drill bit (40) includes a main body (41) with multiple blades (63-66). A plurality of mounting pads (86) is located on the blades and is formed to receive the substrate (88) of a cutting element/diamond table (91). Located directly under the diamond table, between the diamond table and the blade, is a relied groove that extends back from the outer surface of the blade at least 40% of the thickness of the diamond table. (See col. 10, line 19-col. 12, line 51 and Figures 11 and 13)

In regards to claim 11, the method of forming a device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Therefore, this limitation has not been given patentable weight.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

12. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

13. Claims 7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radtke (US 4,499,795).

Radtke discloses all of the limitations of the above claims except for the relief groove having a depth of 0.025 inches. However, it would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have formed the relief groove of Radtke with a depth of 0.025 inches, since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Boesch*, 617 F.2d 272, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980).

14. Claims 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Radtke (US 4,499,795) in view of Butcher (US 6,220,117 B1).

Radtke discloses all of the limitations of the above claims except for forming the bit body from powered tungsten carbide infiltrated by a binder alloy. Butcher teaches a method of forming a drill bit. The drill bit is formed from a powered metal, tungsten carbide for example, that is infiltrated by a binder alloy. (See col. 3, line 25-col. 3, line 47). It would have been considered obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to have formed the drill bit body of Radtke from powered tungsten carbide infiltrated by a binder alloy as taught by Butcher in order to have provided a drill bit that exhibited a relatively high strength compared to conventional drill bits (see col. 2, lines 43-47).

Conclusion

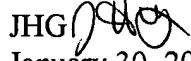
15. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Dykstr et al., Deane et al., Fuller et al. ('017 and '670), Griffin ('895 and '109), Southland, Azar et al., Tibbitts et al., and Griffin et al. disclose various drill bits that include blades with a plurality of cutting elements. The blades include a groove, notch, cut-out, or indentation of some sort under the cutting elements.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jennifer H Gay whose telephone number is (703) 308-2881. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 6:30-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Bagnell can be reached on (703) 308-2151. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-7687 for regular communications and (703) 305-7687 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

JHG 
January 30, 2002


DAVID BAGNELL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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